

9 June 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Soviet Assets in the Middle East

In response to your request of last evening, we would list Soviet assets in the Middle East as follows:

1. The USSR's principal asset in the Middle East is its anti-imperialist, anti-Western posture which permits it to identify with the political and economic objectives of the radical Arab movement.
2. From this position, the Soviets have emerged as the principal supplier of arms and economic assistance to the radical Arab regimes. These regimes feel that they have no practical alternatives to this dependence so long as they pursue radical policies.
3. The USSR has strong diplomatic, military, and clandestine missions in many of the Arab countries.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

ABBOT SMITH  
Acting Chairman